

Interview Transcript

Interview Date: 02/28/2018

Interviewee: Sister Mary McKay

Interviewer: Shannon Green, Director, CSJ Institute, Mount Saint Mary's University; Sean Gary; Kelby Thwaits, Instructor, Film and Television, Mount Saint Mary's University; Mary Trunk, Instructor, Film and Television, Mount Saint Mary's University.

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Transcribed By: Nancy Steinmann

[00:00:00.00] [Director's comments].

[00:05:17.11] SHANNON GREEN: It is Wednesday, February 28, 2018, Mount Saint Mary's University CSJ Oral History Project at Carondelet Center, Shannon Green interviewing Sister Mary McKay, with Kelby Thwaits, Sean Gary and Mary Trunk present.

[00:05:38.21] SHANNON GREEN: Sister Mary, would you get us started by telling us your full name and your age?

[00:05:44.06] SISTER MARY MCKAY: My name is Mary Jane McKay. For the last fifty-three years I've had "Sister" in front of that, and I am seventy-two.

[00:05:53.25] SHANNON GREEN: Sister Mary, would you just get us started by telling us a little bit about your childhood, your family, where you grew up?

[00:06:00.17] SISTER MARY MCKAY: I was born in Detroit, Michigan. I have five siblings who were all born in different places, which says a lot about World War II and the years right after the war. So, I was born in the year in which my mother lived with her parents in Detroit, because my dad was overseas in the military. That's why I was born in Detroit. Lived a couple other places in the larger New England area. Spent--started what I think of as my "conscious childhood" in Phoenix, Arizona, because both my parents wanted to move West. Both of my parents were born and raised in Rutland, Vermont, so they were true Yankees who wanted to go West. That began in Phoenix. I started school in Phoenix and then when I was in the middle of the third grade we moved into the LA [Los Angeles, California] area into the San Fernando Valley. So I had two older brothers who are both now deceased, and I have three younger sisters. The house is always full. Later in their lives my mother's parents--one and then the other--lived with us also, so we had a--we had what I think of as a kind of noisy upbringing. And both my parents were very verbal, they were both educated, they were both big talkers. We all turned into being big talkers. We all had friends. And then I went into Catholic school in the middle of the sixth grade. So my younger sisters and I all went to St. Catherine's school in Reseda, out in the San Fernando Valley. Then I went to [Bishop] Alemany High School, where one of my brothers was already a student. And the rest of my child--I don't know--I loved school, I had a lot of friends, and in high school I was in a lot of extracurricular activities and on the volleyball team. And I was the oldest of the girls, so that makes a big difference in a family--you know, family systems. So I was kind of the "take charge" and then as soon as I had a license, drive your sisters everywhere. [all laugh]. That was a big part of my childhood.

[00:08:09.12] SHANNON GREEN: What did your parents do for work?

[00:08:13.07] SISTER MARY MCKAY: My mother worked raising six children, and my dad was in the

film industry. He--after the war, when he returned, he had inherited two theatres in Baltimore [Maryland] from his father, who was kind of an entrepreneur. So my dad got the theatres, and that sort of moved him inward. And then when we went West he waited until he could get a job somewhere in Arizona. And it was--he managed a system of drive-in theatres in Phoenix. And then we moved from Phoenix to here because two other gentlemen who were entrepreneurs--and they wanted to start their own film company--American International Films--they didn't know anything about movies, so they hired Dad to work with them. And then the last twenty to twenty-five years that he was working he worked at Disney Studios--he was Vice President for Advertising and Publicity. So that was his--he was always called a "movie person" or a "film person". So--and my mom was educated, really, in archaeology. She had gone to Wellesley College. But she spent her archaeological thoughts raising her children. [laughs].

[00:09:28.22] SHANNON GREEN: Did having a parent working for Disney and the film industry influence your childhood? Did that impact your experience?

[00:09:35.13] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Well, when we were younger we went to a lot of screenings that were generally in people's homes, who--I remember this one house in Encino, you know, where they had a screening room in the back of the house. It didn't--when he went to Disney it began to make an influence on our childhood, because they had a lot of family benefits in those years in Disney. And they always had "Family Day" in the summer--any of their employees at any level could bring their families, so everyone you met was somehow related to Disney and all the rides were easy to get on, because it was Family Day. Oh, yeah, I forgot--they also had a family employment practice. So one of my brothers, myself, and two of my three younger sisters all worked at Disney in the summers. So I--because I was such a great student--I had the most boring job--I worked in the typing pool. Nobody had computers. And the lady in charge of the typing pool loved me because I was a fast typist--this little high school girl typing away. But it was a summer job, right, and you got to eat in the commissary, and you saw everybody in the commissary. And two of my sisters worked at Disneyland in the summers, and my brother worked at the studio also. So I forgot those things. It wasn't the biggest influence in the world. A lot of people in the Valley were attached somehow or another to the film industry. We liked it better when he worked for the drive-ins, because we had free passes, and we went to the drive-in all the time. [smiles].

[00:11:05.21] SHANNON GREEN: Do you love movies?

[00:11:07.01] SISTER MARY MCKAY: I still do, but I don't go much. It's sort of my life. But when I go on vacation I get DVDs. And I always read reviews, so my friends say, "What shall we see now?" And I say, "I think you need to see this movie." [all laugh].

[00:11:20.03] SHANNON GREEN: Were you a particularly religious family?

[00:11:22.20] SISTER MARY MCKAY: My father was a very devout Catholic. He was a daily Mass attendee. My mother was not a Catholic, and every night when we had to say our family prayers, kneeling around the parental bed, my mother would usually be walking up and down the hall. To this day we don't know if she was listening or praying with us or what, but she--both her parents became Catholic, and my mother never did. So we were religious, yes, and she was thrilled to have us in Catholic school, because she thought it would be better discipline and they would take care of all these wild girls that she had. [all laugh].

[00:12:00.17] SHANNON GREEN: What do you remember--I want to ask you about how you met the CSJs [Sisters of St. Joseph], and then your own sense of when--when did you first start to

consider becoming a Sister?

[00:12:09.19] SHANNON GREEN: Okay. As I said, I didn't begin my school life in Catholic school, because my parents had children in three different schools, and they said, "We're only moving one of you into Catholic school if you can all go." So there came a point where there was an opening in every class at St. Catherine's School in Reseda, and our Sisters taught there. So I went into that school in the sixth grade, and I had one of our member Sisters sixth grade, seventh grade, eighth grade. So in elementary school I was just--I knew the Sisters. I wasn't overly devout. I remember in the eighth grade that I started making visits to the church--you know, the parish church. That was very cool over there. You know, because Catholicism is full of--I used to teach this at the Mount--it is "the Church of stuff". You know, we appreciate the worldly world, so in come beautiful paintings, in come statues, in comes color, in comes decoration, and my favorite place was the very last pew in that church, when nobody was there. So I remember, as a thirteen year old, I'd take a break after school before going home or something and I would go into the back of the church, and just looked at everything. So that's kind of my first--that was probably some entry into some kind of prayer. And then in high school, maybe in my junior year or so. Again, I was taught by a lot of our Sisters in high school. Alemany had a priest order and a Sisters order there. And--I--to this day, Sister Constance Fitzgerald--who is still alive, and she is 104--was my favorite high school teacher. She was just a great, great, fun teacher, because she let us be who we were, she really liked us, she'd ask--give kind of amazing assignments--one was you had to be quiet for two hours all by yourself and then you'd write down some thoughts at the end of it. And I think she was teaching us to pray along with studying literature and writing. So probably in my junior year of high school I thought about it more than once. We had a lot of vocations from Alemany High School in those years. In my class, nine of us entered--this community--and a few girls went to other communities.

[00:14:36.26] SHANNON GREEN: What else do you remember about the CSJs, maybe even from your sixth, seventh and eighth grade years--just either specific people, or just kind of general characteristics about them?

[00:14:49.06] SISTER MARY MCKAY: One Sister lives here right now--Sister Rose Agnes [Haskins]--she taught me in the seventh grade. And every time I remind her of that she rolls her eyes. [smiles]. Rose Agnes--when you think seventh graders, and sixty-three of us--I think that was the limit at the time--it was at least sixty and probably sixty-three. Think of this classroom full of seventh graders--and you know what seventh graders are like. They're twelve years old. If we were reasonable and good during the day she would read to us. And I told--she read us C.S. Lewis' "The Space Trilogy"--"Perelandra" [(1943)], "Out of the Silent Planet" [(1938)]--whatever that third one is--I think it's called "That Hideous Strength" [(1945)]. We were twelve or something--loved it--I loved it. And to this day I tell her she--I love the verbal reading of something that's kind of lengthy and you have to pay attention. So I remember--and she taught me a shortcut in addition that I use to this day. [laughs]. She doesn't even remember teaching it. I say, "All my life I've credited you for teaching me how to do long rows of addition really quickly." And in the eighth grade, the Principal--in those years the Principal was typically the eighth grade teacher. And one trick they used to do is they'd send some very nice obedient student into mind the office for a while and answer the phone, because it never had a secretary--there's some obedient student in there. And so I liked those times when I got appointed to go to the office, and I'd sit there and pretend I was the Principal, answer the phone--"Who would you like to talk to?" [laughs]. She was a lovely Sister. She was Principal there for a long time, now deceased.

[00:16:38.06] SHANNON GREEN: So you decided to enter out of high school, is that right?

[00:16:42.06] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Yes.

[00:16:42.24] SHANNON GREEN: So tell us a little bit about that process and how your family felt about it.

[00:16:50.02] SISTER MARY MCKAY: My oldest brother had entered the Jesuits, and he had left the Jesuits because he was a lifetime asthmatic, and they accepted him conditionally. So that kind of put my mother off. You have to remember my mother wasn't a Catholic. So I told my parents, I think, in my senior year. And they had always--they told all of us--when we finished high school we could make our own decisions. That's pretty amazing. So I said, "You know, when this year is over I'm going to enter the convent." So my mother was seriously not happy. I was the first daughter--that's a part of the thing. I was doing very well in school. They had a legacy program--or I don't know what they called it then--at Wellesley, so I was already pre-accepted to Wellesley. She made me apply to a couple of other places and I was accepted. But I said, "No, I'm going to enter the convent and I'm going to go to Mount St. Mary's College." Now, she did know what it was because a lot of--we associated with other Catholics, and a lot of Valley girls went to Mount St. Mary's. So she knew that school, so she wasn't so upset about that. But she thought I was throwing my life away, and--whatever lovely things that you can imagine. I think my father was fine with it, but what he said to me at the time--his--he had a younger sister and a niece who were both already Sisters. And he said, "Well, Mary it's a good thing but I think they work you too hard." He said, "I don't mind if you go to the convent but I think it's going to be a hard life." And my sisters are like, "Yay!", because we all wore the same size clothes and she was--[laughs]--used to come on visiting Sunday and one in particular, she'd be in something that used to be mine just to show me that she could wear it. [laughs]. So I think I was almost oblivious to it, when I think about that now. I was pretty headstrong about it. And years later I thought, "Well, maybe I shouldn't have been so headstrong." And also my mom said, "If you wait a couple of years I'll take you to Europe"--and I promise you later I regretted that-- [laughs]--because I so wanted to go to Europe. But I finally went to Paris when I was much older.

[00:19:18.10] SHANNON GREEN: What was it that so strongly attracted you to the CSJs that even that kind of family--a little pressure or discouragement--but you stayed strong in that?

[00:19:30.09] SISTER MARY MCKAY: I look at--years later, I had the opportunity to see the letter I wrote when I wanted to enter. And I was struck myself by it. I don't know which was most prominent when I was 18--actually I was seventeen, because I have a summer birthday--so I was eighteen by the time I went to the convent, but I was seventeen when I graduated. And I said that I wanted to learn to be prayerful, and I wanted to be a teacher. And I really did always want to be a teacher, even before I knew the Sisters. And I had had some great Sister teachers, so that seemed like a very worthy vocation to me. But much later when I saw my own letter, I thought, "How interesting! How could a teenager say that she wants to learn to pray?" I wrote that down, yeah, and I guess I figured they knew how to pray--[laughs]--which turned out to be right--they did know how to pray.

[00:20:32.27] SHANNON GREEN: So tell us a little bit about being a postulant and a novice. What do you remember from those times?

[00:20:38.25] [Director's comments].

[00:21:28.05] SISTER MARY MCKAY: A whole lot of us entered in 1963--I think we were fifty-three in number. We lived in this building, but on the--in the wing which has been reconstructed into rooms for senior Sisters. So we were in dorms of--I think six or eight, I can't quite recall. It wasn't

so hard for me because I was already from a big family and I had never had a private bedroom. I kind of liked it, and sometimes when people tell stories about our first two or three or four years in Formation they tell bad stories or scary stories--I say, I don't even remember it. I think I just had my own happiness, and I don't remember being upset about anything. Later, when we had the opportunity to take the habit off, to change the habit, I did want to change quickly. So maybe there was something about that, but I never resented the habit when I wore it. I think it was all just being a young person. And so it was enough--we were going to school, we were learning--there were lots of people around me, I had strong friendships--we were learning to pray. I was never unhappy in the early years in the convent. Some people say they were depressed, and I hear that and I go, "Really?" Or that Sister So-and-so was mad at them all the time--I say, "I never even knew she was mad." So maybe I was in a bubble, and if it was a bubble it was a happy bubble. Yeah, so we worked hard, we kept a strict schedule--none of that was unfamiliar to me.

[00:23:12.28] SHANNON GREEN: Do you remember the day you received the habit?

[00:23:17.25] SISTER MARY MCKAY: I do, because we wore wedding gowns. I'm in the wedding gown group. I think maybe it only lasted a couple of years after us. So, my mother wanted to buy it for me. That was an option. There was a closet here--a special closet--that had wedding gowns that were contributed by others--meaning postulants. When you received the habit you wore a wedding gown--it's a very ancient symbolism. My mother said, "No, we're buying a wedding gown." Fine. So a couple of my sisters trooped along--we went to some downtown store in downtown Los Angeles--I don't know, Orbach's or something--and I was trying on wedding gowns, and I think that was for her. She--my mom needed that. And then we contributed it--it went into the closet afterwards. So what I remember is ratting the hair--getting your hair all fixed up and puffy--and putting on the gown. And then--it was very dramatic--I mean, the way the whole thing was arranged. It happened in the course of a Mass, but then you entered in your wedding gown, and then you left in your wedding gown--to this day I don't know what was happening at the Mass while we were gone--[laughs]. And then two Sisters dressed us in the habit, and we came back in in the habit--and it was very dramatic and families were crying and--yeah. So that's all I remember. And I found out I do have two little tiny pictures that were illicit--those photographs probably taken by somebody else and given to me. And I look very happy. I'm sort of laughing in both those pictures. They're cut-outs from what must have been bigger pictures--and then laughing. So that's kind of all I remember. Yeah, I remember my Profession Day much more significantly, because that's the day you had to say your vows.

[00:25:08.28] SHANNON GREEN: We'll ask about that, but I wanted to--did you receive a religious name?

[00:25:13.01] SISTER MARY MCKAY: I did.

[00:25:13.11] SHANNON GREEN: What was your name?

[00:25:14.15] SISTER MARY MCKAY: I did. Not one I asked for. I asked for versions that had "Mary" and "Thomas"--I didn't get any of them. I got "Sister Carol Richard"--"Carol" was my mother's name and "Richard" was my father's name. And Sister told me afterwards, "I picked that name for you because your parents need you to pray for them." Okay. But what she didn't know was my mother's name was "Caroline"--with an "ine". [laughs]. So, if ever I was on home visit my mom introduced me to people--she'd say, "This is my daughter--she's a nun." Like it wasn't obvious--of course, it was totally obvious. "She's a Sister of St. Joseph and her name is Caroline Richard." So I thought, "Well, fine, she thinks my name is Caroline." [all laugh]. So I was Sister Carol Richard for the first several years when I was teaching school.

[00:26:03.25] SHANNON GREEN: And what do you remember about your Profession Day--so you remember that more strongly?

[00:26:06.24] SISTER MARY MCKAY: I remember it more strongly because we had to individually pronounce our vows, and I felt like it was really important, and that I really meant it. And I think--was I twenty-one? I remember having this thing about age each time. I was legal age--I was eighteen when I entered the novitiate--I think I was twenty-one when I made my Profession, so I thought that, "This is me--I'm legal now and I can say this."

[00:26:34.03] SHANNON GREEN: Just briefly, what were the vows that you took?

[00:26:37.15] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Oh, I don't even know if I could say them--vow--Professions--a thing anymore? We have a renewal form of it that we say every year that's very short, but it was longer. And it used to end with what we called "The Protestations" of humility, charity, and I forget the third one--that tells you something. [all laugh]. We had to protest that we were going to live according to these virtues. But I took it very seriously. I felt like, "This is my profession now--this is what I'm going to do--this is who I will be--it's my profession."

[00:27:19.26] SHANNON GREEN: And by this time are you teaching, are you still studying at the Mount?

[00:27:23.07] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Well, actually, by the--no, by the time we make first vows it's just the end of the novitiate, so I wasn't reaching yet. Yeah. By the time--in those years we made temporary vows a couple of times, and then finally you made your perpetual Profession. So by the time we renewed those vows two years later, I was actually already teaching, because I had finished college a little early.

[00:27:44.14] SHANNON GREEN: What do you remember from being a student at the Mount as a young Sister?

[00:27:49.09] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Well, my friends like to remind me--and I still have--there's still a group of eight or nine of us that are friends from high school, and three of the others had entered with me and then they all ended up leaving--but others--we still knew them. A batch of them went to Mount St. Mary's. So they like to remind me that we would kind of talk to each other illicitly--it was illicit. Yeah. And that we'd accidentally meet each other in the hall or going down and then--Paula [??] in particular, and some others--they would stop by here to visit, and they would just tell the Sister in charge, "We're here to see Sister Carol Richard." And actually, they came to that Sister's funeral--[Sister] Veronica Maloney (1920-2016). She was the Directress for the postulants, the newest one. And they knew her and she knew them. So I remember that, and I remember sometimes if we would get assigned to a class--we didn't really pick our classes, you know, we were just scheduled in--that sometimes the other students that weren't Sisters, they would groan, if they had four or five Sisters in their class. They said, "Oh no, there goes the curve." [laughs]. That's what I remember. But I liked--I had always liked school, and I loved going to college. Sister Miriam Therese Larkin [(1930-2010)] had a brand new PhD in her hand and she came to teach Philosophy, and it was the hardest class I ever had, because, of course, she was new. So I tried to remember that myself when I came back with a brand new PhD, thinking, "Have mercy on these students." Right? Because you think they have to know everything you know. So all my life I respected her as a terrific scholar because I didn't understand everything she said in the classroom. [all laugh]. And--but oh! I know what I liked--I minored in Art--so English Lit and Art, and I took three courses in Ceramics. We had a very good Ceramics program at the time, and I was

in the full habit. So I'd pin up the habit and pin back the--two of us, Cathy Reed and I--we were both in Ceramics--and she was in the convent with me--she left some time later. And I can do the kick wheel to this day, and throw a pot on a kick wheel. So much later, when I was teaching in Oxnard, California, and I was bored straight because, you know, second grade doesn't occupy your mind much--I said, "I'm going to take an Adult Ed class." So two of us went over to Adult Ed, and I signed up for Ceramics. And I was like--I was in the modified habit by then, and these people were like, "Seriously?" I'd just pin back my veil, roll up the skirt and pin it up over here and just get to work on the kick wheel. We had more fun. But I was young, so it's okay, you can get away with everything when you're young. That's what I enjoyed, was Art. And I took a Weaving course and a Painting course.

[00:30:46.17] SHANNON GREEN: Do you remember other Sisters that you had as faculty at that time?

[00:30:52.02] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Sister Jeanette [Munick, aka Sister John Margaret Munick], who is here in retirement--she taught me Intro to Sociology. Sister Alice [??]--I'm trying to think of her family name, because she had a--she was Alice then, she's not Alice anymore, and she's also here--she taught me History. Who was our President? It was before Sister Magdalen [Coughlin]. Oh, [Sister] Cecilia Louise [Moore (1928-2004)]. Cecilia Louise, I knew who she was.

[00:31:22.28] SHANNON GREEN: Do you have any memories of her?

[00:31:25.02] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Oh, no. My memories--thank you for making me remember. [Sister Mary] Laurentia Digges [(1910-1991)]--famous--the famous Laurentia. She was a fierce English Lit teacher. She made you really work and really think. "No," she'd say, "I don't want superficial answers." You know, don't just say some little bland thing that anybody in the world would say--don't open your mouth unless it's going to be good. [laughs]. And I found myself saying that sometimes. "You know ninety-nine percent of the young ladies in this class would say exactly the same things, so don't say that, okay? I want something else." [laughs].

[00:31:59.09] SHANNON GREEN: She wrote a couple of books?

[00:32:02.10] SISTER MARY MCKAY: She did--"Adam's Haunted Sons" [(1966)]--now, of course, we'd say "children" or "offspring" or something. Yeah, it was the literature--Biblical Lit, Old Testament. And I don't know if she ever finished the New Testament one--it was Biblical Lit, New Testament. I can't recall because I was off by then. Yeah, great teacher.

[00:32:25.17] SHANNON GREEN: What do you remember about--you became a teacher--

[00:32:28.26] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Yep.

[00:32:29.20] SHANNON GREEN: --and then you were--what was your first ministry?

[00:32:31.29] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Second grade. I love to tell people. They say, "What's your profession?" "I'm a second grade teacher." For eight or nine years, second grade--one year first grade and I said, "Save me! Save my soul, I have to get out of here!" They don't know how to take the potty break. At that point kindergarten wasn't required, so especially in Oxnard we got a lot of farm children who hadn't been to kindergarten so I was teaching kindergarten--no really--I taught first grade one year in Oxnard--I was just desperate. I said, "Sister, please, move me up, move me up, I can't take it!" They follow to their desk on the wrong side, they don't know how to go to the boy's room and the girl's room, and I was giving lessons, and I said, "Please!" They can't read,

you're teaching them phonics--that's all good. So the next year I went up to third grade. That's like, "Yay! I've graduated!" I have nine year olds. And the highest grade I've ever taught was fifth grade. So, when I was a young Sister I was asked to become a high school teacher, and I said, "No--I grew up surrounded by teenagers--they're all difficult and impossible and I'm not going to teach teenagers." [laughs]. So, I never taught high school--I taught elementary and then I went to college.

[00:33:51.04] SHANNON GREEN: During your early years in ministry, when you're an elementary school teacher, is when Vatican II [Second Vatican Council (1962-1965)] starts to--

[00:33:57.17] SISTER MARY MCKAY: It started when I was in Formation.

[00:33:59.13] SHANNON GREEN: --you were in formation--

[00:34:00.06] SISTER MARY MCKAY: That's when we had changed our habit.

[00:34:01.12] SHANNON GREEN: You changed your habit when you were in Formations still?

[00:34:03.10] SISTER MARY MCKAY: I was a junior professed. So this--we used to have a longer period in Formation--one year postulate, two years novitiate, and two years of temporary profession. And it's in that period there when we had our option to change our clothing--I was a young professed Sister.

[00:34:20.07] SHANNON GREEN: And what did you decide to do?

[00:34:21.29] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Yes! Part of it was not just because we were still young and it was easy to switch back to clothes that we were more familiar with. But it was the Vatican Council. I mean, we were all very excited about Vatican Council. And Theology courses at the Mount were still taught by priests. So there was a young priest who made us read the documents of Vatican II--I mean, they were hot off the press--that really old paperback edition, Abbot and somebody--and we were thrilled. I was thrilled. Everything about it was great. He told us it was the best thing since sliced bread and we believed him. So this was part of the call to renewal to all religious orders so I wanted to do it.

[00:35:06.26] SHANNON GREEN: What do you--do you remember any specific concepts or--that really stood out to you from those documents at that time?

[00:35:15.07] SISTER MARY MCKAY: The "people of God" as the image of the Church--the people of God. And pilgrimage, and that we are a pilgrim people, and that everybody and all people are on pilgrimage. The openness to ecumenism--the statement on ecumenism and openness to interfaith dialogue--because I was raised in an interfaith family, and my mother had a first or second cousin who was a minister even. So I never believed in Catholic education that there was only one true religion. I just--I didn't argue about it in the classroom, I just plain never believed it. So, I was thrilled about that. And then when I moved to the Northwest, there was an interfaith Biblical Study program that was home-based, and all of the Sisters that I lived with--we all joined it. So we were with Christian people of different churches. So it was very--it moved in a direction I felt I was already moving in. But that was about the culture, it wasn't about me. It was about the culture. The culture was more ready to be open and accepting, and so the Church reflected that and stepped forward in a way that was very important.

[00:36:38.00] SHANNON GREEN: What do you recall during that time about how the charism, the

mission, and the identity of the CSJs kind of emerges?

[00:36:46.15] SISTER MARY MCKAY: We didn't talk charism language then. It emerged very soon after that. But the mission and the identity--see, identity--those Protestations that we took were supposed to be markers of a Sister of St. Joseph. So, an interesting example is, more than once in life in this community someone would say, "How come we've never promoted the cause of Mother St. John Fontbonne [Jeanne Fontbonne (1759-1843), founder of CSJs] or anyone else for beatification? And the answer is always, "It's really not part of our tradition--we don't need any high profile people." And that's that Protestation of Humility. And to just be an ordinary person among ordinary people. Yes, you have your profession--and for most of us it was teaching or nursing until Vatican II made a strong impact and we broke out in other ways. And we were advised, "Don't try to be so singular." You'd be excellent at what you are doing, but you don't have to be the best and the one who's always talking and that's part of that identity marker of humility, so--. What am I missing? Oh, "the most profound humility, the most sincere charity"--what's the third one? [all laugh].

[00:38:08.10] SHANNON GREEN: I don't know, I never took Protestations.

[00:38:10.24] SISTER MARY MCKAY: We have to find another Sister of St. Joseph. Might be simplicity. Yeah, it might be. So, we didn't get educated into charism--we got educated into being a Sister, we studied the vows, which at that time were understood pretty much the same by every religious congregation, and how to be a Sister of St. Joseph.

[00:38:36.21] SHANNON GREEN: What does that mean--how to be a Sister of St. Joseph?

[00:38:40.08] SISTER MARY MCKAY: I think it had a lot to do with that--you are of the people, and you're one of the people. And our Sisters who came West--we told that story about going West to Arizona [Trek of the Seven Sisters (1870)], you know, we knew that story well. They weren't--didn't arrive in a golden carriage, and they didn't live in a nice house when they started. And actually when our Sisters first came from France they lived in a really simple house, too. So we were never upper class. And we should visit with families. And we should treat them as if they were our equals because they are. It's that thing about just--you came from here, these are your people. Our community was never terribly separated, and I appreciate that about this community. And I--the fact that I knew the Sisters well in high school was a sign to me of that. They weren't terribly separated. And before they could drive they would ask us to drive them places. Okay. "Can I go in your car?" "Sure!" But the driver is me, of course. [laughs].

[00:39:56.26] SHANNON GREEN: Sounds like there was not that kind of mystification--

[00:40:02.09] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Yes, I would say that's true. And a lot of students at Alemany--not so much myself--I was never in that inner circle with the Sisters--they came and went to the convent and they did various things--I don't remember doing that. I was probably in there a couple of times, but I wasn't one of the super-devout ones--the "devotees" that went in the convent more. But it--that's a sign of your question, that I never experienced our Sisters as separated. And they stayed around after school and they came and watched us practice. And Sister Jean Anne [??] could shoot hoops--she was good--and she was really short. [laughs]. So we knew her--we knew them and they knew us. And I think that isn't true with every congregation, or it wasn't--it may be now, but it wasn't so much.

[00:40:54.07] SHANNON GREEN: So what brings you to a point where you decide to get a graduate degree in Spirituality? What's happened in your ministry and your own sense of journey--kind of,

the renewal, all of this is happening at the same--in the seventies?

[00:41:09.04] SISTER MARY MCKAY: So, I need to say at the beginning of telling my adult journey that I was invited into every major change in my life. So, the question of, "What made you decide?", was that I was asked. So--and I realize that that's pretty remarkable. So I was living in the Northwest in Kennewick, Washington, teaching the third grade, and the then-Provincial and her assistant--that Provincial is still alive, Sister Mary Brigid Fitzpatrick ['47]--her assistant was Sister Grace Ann [Loperena (1926-2017)], who just died within the last year--they went on a visitation round of the province. And there were four of us living in Kennewick--we were all quite young, running an elementary school and having a great time. And after that visit, then--after they came to visit our local community--then the local Provincial contacted me and she said, "You know, we see the need to educate a new wave of Sisters for Formation ministry, and we'd like you to go to school." So, there I was. And I said, "How long do I have to decide?" And she said, "Until tomorrow morning." [all laugh]. So--and there were no computers, we weren't emailing. So, the next morning I said, "Sure, if you think that's a good thing." So then I went off to Duquesne University [Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania]. I was pretty young--I think I was twenty-seven. And it was a three-year masters program. But it was run by a person who at that time was a very notable Catholic psychologist, [Father] Adrian van Kaam [C. S. Sp., (1920-2007)]. He was a priest, and he believed that to learn Spirituality you had to also learn Psychology. So, it was a long program, lots of classes, and they taught us this reflective writing method, which also was twice as long as other writing. So, that--the masters degree was because I was asked to do it, and it was an MA in Formative Spirituality to prepare for Formation ministry.

[00:43:18.00] SHANNON GREEN: You mentioned some things that--in the course of your life--prayer, you wanted to learn how to pray, the Biblical Lit class really spoke to you. Did you find that you enjoyed this? Did it spark--studying Spirituality--did it spark in you?

[00:43:33.05] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Yes. Before I entered that program I had entered a summer program in Theology, and I had completed either two or three of the summers to get an MA in Theology, because as the time went on I realized that even though I had majored in English Lit, my real interest was Theology. Then when I was asked to go to Duquesne University, the Spirituality just--it was--then I really knew that was my homeland. I loved it. It was about personal development, the development of the human spirit. It was about spiritual traditions, within Catholicism and along-side Catholicism, outside our own denomination. I loved all the reading. It just suited me, I think. And the psychology was--because Adrian Van Kaam was--yeah, so we studied Psych and we all had to be in a psychological evaluation circle, like peer evaluation. And then they--so, they taught us both disciplines, kind of interwoven together. Part--one of his maxims was that you can't be a good spiritual director unless you understand psychology. So, you know, what happens in the interior person is really all one thing. It isn't like you have a natural self and a supernatural self--it's really all one thing. So, I loved it, and I think that my couple of years--my couple of summers of theological study really helped me, because I'd already read contemporary theology and it all felt consonant--it all kind of went together.

[00:45:25.05] SHANNON GREEN: Did you find your own spiritual practices started to change and grow?

[00:45:29.26] SISTER MARY MCKAY: I would say, during those years that I spent in Pittsburgh--and it was three years--were--it was a huge growth spurt in my personal life. It's spiritual, but also I felt like I grew up. I was away from my family and basically the community also--I was the only one there. Of course, there were other men and women religious in that program, but they weren't my own home community. So, I felt--by the end of it I realized how important it had been. And my

prayer life--what would I say? I learned to be quiet all by myself, and today, now I would call that contemplation. But I found that when I studied, too, a lot of times I wasn't studying--I was just sort of hanging out in my mind and spirit. It was a huge privilege. It came just at the right time in my life, and I realized it even as it was happening--it came at the right time.

[00:46:34.15] SHANNON GREEN: So what was your--so then--did you go into Formation ministry at that time?

[00:46:38.18] SISTER MARY MCKAY: I did. I came here--by then, Sister Grace Ann was the Provincial--she had been assistant to Mary Brigid. I can't remember the details of it, but we had a meeting--maybe with the whole council, definitely with Sister Grace Ann--and two others had been asked to go to school at the same time, and you would know them both--Joyce Gaspardo [Sister Joyce Marie Gaspardo] and Marilyn Binder [Sister Marilyn Binder '65]. And they had sent us to different programs so we could bring different experiences into this. And then, we were gathered to--now, today, we would say "discern"--I think in 1975 we just said "decide"--but to think about and decide what might be a reasonable arrangement of the next Formation team. So, it didn't take too much prompting. Oh, Sara Michael [Sister Sara Michael King] had also gone to school--Sara King--I don't know if you know her? She had studied Liturgy and she was considered part of this pool also. It didn't take very long for everyone to say, "Well, I don't want the Novitiate." And I was--I didn't speak first. I was just sitting there, absorbing and whatever, so then everyone began to think, "Well, maybe Mary's the one to do the Novitiate." [laughs]. So, that's where I ended up. And Sister Marilyn had--she went into--she became Vocation minister. Joyce lived in the Novitiate community--they actually were already on duty before I returned, because I had the longest program. So, I used to tease them that they went to these great one-year programs that involved overseas study and a Jesuit retreat at Manresa [Manresa Jesuit Retreat House, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan], and all this wonderful stuff, and I went to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and my courses were for credit, and I had to write papers and everything. [laughs]. So Sara and I went to academic programs, and the two of them went to programs that were really honed down to prepare Formation directors. That's what--Joyce and Marilyn did that.

[00:48:46.22] SHANNON GREEN: So what was happening in the Seventies--this is the late Seventies, then, or is it--?

[00:48:52.01] SISTER MARY MCKAY: I came back in '77, and I began to serve novices in the summer of '77.

[00:48:57.24] SHANNON GREEN: And are--what are the kind of sizes and the spirit--this is post-Vatican II--

[00:49:02.18] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Yes, it's post-Vatican II--

[00:49:03.28] SHANNON GREEN: --things are starting to shift, or--?

[00:49:05.10] SISTER MARY MCKAY: In the community?

[00:49:06.20] SHANNON GREEN: Yeah.

[00:49:07.07] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Things were definitely shifting in the congregation by '77. And there were many fewer vocations--I have some of my pictures of myself with the novices--but I think the largest set I ever actually lived with--and I say, "set"--it was first year novices and second year novices together--I think seven or eight is the largest that I was ever serving with at

any one point. So you'd have a group of three, four, two, even by the late Seventies. So that's not a brand new phenomenon--that started happening in the late Sixties in fact. The other thing is, when I came back and took the position in the summer of '77, the decision was made to take the whole north wing and turn it into what it is today--the two residential floors for our senior Sisters. And so what had been the novitiate and postulate was going to go away. And I said, "Great!" And we went and found a convent we could rent, and we moved the novitiate out of this house. So in the summer of '77 we moved the Formation out of this house.

[00:50:24.20] SHANNON GREEN: Where to?

[00:50:25.22] SISTER MARY MCKAY: So, we lived at Assumption parish in Pasadena. It was a nice convent that had been emptied, and we rented it from the parish. And we were--a lot of us volunteered in different ways in the parish, so they benefitted too from our being there. And we were there the whole six years that I was with novices.

[00:50:47.01] SHANNON GREEN: What do you recall about--that's quite a role shift for you, from a--you were an educator, and then a student, and then you're in this leadership and formative role. What was that like for you to take that on?

[00:50:59.22] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Yeah, and a couple of them were older than I was. That was also fun. [smiles]. During those years I used to tell people, "This is the best ministry I've ever had." And I said it for a few years afterward too. That tune changed later, so I can tell you that story later. But I loved being with adults--I loved young adults. I realized that those seven and eight-year-olds were great, but they just weren't young adults. You know, so, goodbye to the second and third grade. I loved their way of engaging life. It was very challenging, but I never regretted it. I really liked it. I liked teaching them. We would go on these ministry experiences--you know, drive off to Tucson to meet all the Sisters in Tucson--drive to Northern California to meet all the Sisters in Northern California. The whole thing about it suited my age and probably my personality. And I was prepared--I was well-prepared, and I felt that confidence.

[00:52:14.13] SHANNON GREEN: So that was--was that just like a one-term--?

[00:52:17.19] SISTER MARY MCKAY: It was actually two three-year terms. Yeah.

[00:52:22.10] SHANNON GREEN: And then so, what were you invited into after that?

[00:52:24.06] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Then I was invited by Sister Magdalen [Sister Magdalen Coughlin [(1930-1994)], who was then President of the college, would I come to the college? And I said I'm not sure I was going to like college, because they were older and more sophisticated and--I wasn't so sure. So I went on a--and also, she was pretty clear with me, that if I was going to be long-term at the college I needed to get a PhD. And that was a slow-down for me. I said, "You know, I already spent three years just getting a masters degree. Who wants to do another five years in a doctorate?" So, we made a deal that I would come and see. So I went to be Alexis Navarro's [Sister Alexis Navarro, IHM] assistant in the Graduate Religious Studies, and I taught two undergrad courses to see, did I like it? I liked it well enough that I thought I could go back to school. I wasn't crazy about it. Now, when I came back later, in fact, I was older, and I was crazy about it when I came back. So then, I went away to get a doctorate, after two years of just saying, "Do you like St. Mary's?" on the teaching end. So Sister Magdalen won that one. [all laugh]. She was out recruiting younger Sisters to get new faculty. So, I went to Notre Dame [University, Indiana]--I have a doctorate in Theology. I did my dissertation in the arena of Grace, and that goes back to my masters degree in Spirituality, so I was very interested in the theology of Grace and Christology--

those are my two favorites. Who is Christ and what is the life of God anyhow? So that's what Grace is about--a life with God. And when I came back I was older, and loved it.

[00:54:23.12] SHANNON GREEN: Would you share a little bit--since at this time, so this is--did you go in the Eighties to Notre Dame?

[00:54:31.19] SISTER MARY MCKAY: I did. I was there--I finished in '92--from '86 to '92.

[00:54:36.09] SHANNON GREEN: So, women in Theology are--it's building--

[00:54:38.24] SISTER MARY MCKAY: It's definitely building in that time. We had a couple of young female faculty members and there were a lot of older male faculty members in Theology. But they fostered the women. And I'm sure that's part of the reason they accepted me--they were really working at getting women into their program.

[00:54:56.04] SHANNON GREEN: Can you just speak to the importance--or your experience of being a woman theologian?

[00:55:02.09] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Oh, there or afterwards?

[00:55:05.13] SHANNON GREEN: Anything you'd like to share--

[00:55:06.18] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Well--

[00:55:07.12] SHANNON GREEN: --both, really.

[00:55:09.02] SISTER MARY MCKAY: I had two great mentors, both Immaculate Hearts--[Sister] Alexis Navarro [IHM] and [Sister] Marie Egan [IHM]. So, I worked with them and kind of for them before I went away to get the doctorate. And it was just no question that women were equal. They both had very reputable degrees, they're both really smart--taught--good teachers--students liked them--so I was--at that level, being around the faculty, I didn't have any question about women. Now, when I got to Notre Dame it was obvious that they were working to integrate their faculty, to get more and more women. So, then I realized that maybe this wasn't the standard. Yeah--that they didn't have as many women as men. There's a Women's Caucus in the Catholic Theological Society of America [CTSA], and so you can join as an associate member as a student, and so my last year as a student I joined there. I joined the CTSA and the Women's Caucus. It's interesting to me all these years later that Women's Caucus is still going, because I think we're fully integrated--I think there are as many women as men who are doing Theology. It was important to me in the early part of my doctoral work, because there were two young female faculty members and it was important to them, and they had us reading Feminist Theology. After--I had a lot of male friends also at--during my years at Notre Dame, and so I think that gender thing, that in my personal life, just never became a huge issue because it was never an obstacle for me.

[00:56:52.11] SHANNON GREEN: Were there any Feminist Theological either writers or concepts that were really transformative for you?

[00:57:00.17] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Transformative--

[00:57:01.06] SHANNON GREEN: --or shifted your--what--

[00:57:04.07] SISTER MARY MCKAY: I don't know about "transformative". My favorite female

theologian--hm--I don't know. I don't know if it's been "transformative"--[Sister] Elizabeth A. Johnson [(1941-), Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood, New York] is a great writer, and I've taught at the Mount undergraduate and graduate from Elizabeth Johnson's work. Your question surprises me a little because I don't know if it was transformative. You can tell she was a high school teacher, because she's a great writer--it's right out there, it's straight forward. If you read her footnotes, she's using Classical sources, which I think is stunning--and that she's represented Aquinas [Saint Thomas Aquinas OP, (1225-1274)] and she uses Rahner [Karl Rahner, SJ (1904-1984), German Jesuit priest and theologian] in a way that's understandable, and I just really admire it, I think it's great. I don't know--Catherine LaCugna [Catherine Mowry LaCugna (1952-1997), feminist Catholic theologian and author] was a faculty member when I went--she died of breast cancer--and she's done great work too. She's not as easy to read as Elizabeth Johnson. And when I taught at the Mount I always favored female authors, except for Karl Rahner--we couldn't change his gender. [laughs]. I don't know, and I can't name a particular thing or person who was transformative. I know I've been transformed. I think my feminist education started before I started to study Theology. Just--it was in the air, you know. And it was hard to read contemporary writing without running up against Liberation Theology and Feminist Theology. Maybe Liberation Theology was more transformative to me. The methodology is very important, and most feminist theologians use that methodology--begin by narrating your experience and others--narrate experience first, and that becomes, then, the ground for what you're really going to deal with.

[00:59:27.13] SHANNON GREEN: For the process [unintelligible].

[00:59:30.01] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Yes, right.

[00:59:30.21] SHANNON GREEN: So, during this time, too, then, is the--are you conscious or--I'm sure you're conscious of, but--immersed in how the CSJ charism is becoming articulated, and how are you making that connection with your own kind of work and scholarship and--how do you see your ministry at that time--or you know--connecting? Or is there something that's starting to inspire you?

[01:00:03.18] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Yes, I was very aware of the new research done by the research teams that were commissioned by the Federation. I was very aware of the renovated language that we had that comes out in the Consensus Statement. We used all that when I was Novice Director, of course, because that work was being done right then. I think where I find myself in the new language is "without distinction"--"love of God and neighbor without distinction"--that's all the same thing. Love of every neighbor without distinction--that's probably where I find myself. And I think I present and teach from that perspective. There aren't two worlds--there's one world. And there aren't two of you either--a natural self and a supernatural self--there's just one of you. And even though we say "mind, body, spirit", it's really all one. So, I think that's why that phrase is really important to me--even--inside myself, and in my life, and in my relationship with you, there's no distinction--it's all one. So that's been important to me. Also, in my teaching and in my leadership--it's all one thing.

[01:01:29.01] SHANNON GREEN: Let's talk a little bit more about your teaching at the Mount. So you said, at this point you've come back--you said, now you are in love with it--I'm not sure--I don't [unintelligible] what it--

[01:01:36.04] SISTER MARY MCKAY: I said, by the time I returned with a doctorate in hand I was older. I was close to forty-seven. And so I was the age that I could be the mother of most undergrads, right, which wasn't true the first time around. I mean--everything felt different, and I felt very sure of myself, like I knew my stuff. That's what six years in a doctoral program will do to

you. Well, three of them, of course, were just the dissertation. So, I was confident. I could talk to them in a way that--I wasn't in their generation, and I had a certain distance that made me really--I really like young adults. The age--the twenties are just so fun. You know, they're kind of coming into their own, especially when--they're really coming into their own, they're away from their mother, they're trying out everything. I found that they respond to humor. And then if somebody was really crashed up and things weren't working, I could be the mom, because I was old enough. I'd just cross my arms and say, "Sit down--now we're going to talk about this." Because when I started with novices I was thirty. You know, so it was a different dynamic, and I could feel the difference in the dynamic when I was older. And--I like undergrads. Grads--the [unintelligible] students are easier to teach, and that's fun, because they're intellectually ready, and you could put out a kind of tricky idea and play with it and they're cool, because they're older and they listen to you playing with the idea. Young people just want to know, "Is that going to be on the test?" [laughs]. So, they were more fun for me--used to just crack me up. And somebody would have a big, huge thing and I'd say, "I only have one question: did you do your homework?" [laughs]. So I always enjoyed them. I loved graduation. I loved graduation, because you see them and you realize, this is not the Sophie I met four years ago--this is a different Sophie walking across that stage. And it's probably my version of having maternal instinct and maternal satisfaction, right? And it's fun to be with the faculty at graduation, because we all say that. "Oh, I never thought she'd be there. Oh my goodness, she's walking across and getting a diploma!" And it's such a satisfaction--it's a wonderful thing. Yeah, especially young women and young men also who would not have had access if we didn't help them do that. And then you see them maybe five years later--maybe they aren't pushing it off in four years, five years, a little bit longer--and they have that diploma and it's wonderful.

[01:04:30.25] SHANNON GREEN: Is there a particular story or alum student that you are particularly proud of?

[01:04:36.28] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Yes. I met one in the airport last year. I'm going to tell you my airport story. So, I had on my Mount St. Mary's College sweatshirt--it says "College" mind you, because it's an old sweatshirt. And it's a winter's day in the Minneapolis airport and I'm waiting for my flight. And I see these two--they look young to me--I find out later how old they are--and they're laughing and fooling around. I said, "It's so nice to see young adults, isn't it? It's great." And then, one of them gets up and comes across to me--I'm in my chair. And she goes, "That's out of date." I said, "Excuse me?" And she said, "It's Mount Saint Mary's University." [laughs]. And then we engaged each other, and I said, "Well, this is a collectable--it's worth a lot of money, because it says 'College'." Then she asked me if I was an alum. And I said, "Well, actually I am, but that goes back to 1967, and I don't think that's your class." And then she tells me she's 1992. And I said, "Oh, that was the year I came to the Mount." And she goes, "What? I thought you said '67?" And so we had this very weird conversation, until I told her I had been a faculty. Then we find out she was in my class! [laughs]. And she didn't remember, and I didn't remember. Then she told me her name, and it's in the back of my head ticking around while she's talking--we're bantering. All of a sudden I went, "Harvard Westlake High School." And she said, "Oh my goodness!" And I said, "You came to talk to me in my office once--and you told me that you were going to work society, and you were going to do something important. And you said five minutes ago that you were a lawyer, and I'm not feeling good about this." And she goes, "Ah, Sister! I'm a lawyer and I work full time for a firm that helps women who've been trafficked." I said, "Oh my goodness! You told me you were going to help people!" And she said, "I did--this is my second profession. My first one was not satisfying, and then I said, I have to work for the people." So that is Sarah--I won't tell you her last name because I don't know where this movie will go. And Sarah is in her forties and neither of us even remembered each other. And then she said, "I can't believe you remember me." And I said, "Sarah, I remember other things you told me on that day and I won't say them to you right now,

but you told me that the Mount had affected you and you wanted to work for the people." Isn't that great?

[01:07:01.02] SHANNON GREEN: That's a great story.

[01:07:01.21] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Yeah. I met her in the airport. [laughs].

[01:07:04.04] SHANNON GREEN: Providence. [all laugh]. Is there anything else you want to share about your time as a teacher at the Mount, or the mission of the Mount? You talked about the importance of access--

[01:07:16.06] SISTER MARY MCKAY: I'm very proud of Mount Saint Mary's for Doheny [campus], for the open door, for the access, for helping lots of students who would not have just walked into a four year school. And the transfer rate from Doheny [campus] to Chalon [campus] is something we should be proud of--and the completion rate we should be proud of. I just--I think it's wonderful. Now, it is--it was often hard for me as an instructor, because of my expectations. And it was hard for me to teach at Doheny. I had never been missioned in a city school--you know, I was in the San Fernando Valley and then Oxnard in the farm country up in the Northwest. But it was important, and if I could get through to somebody and help her get a good enough grade so that she was a potential transfer student I would be--I was always happy about that. It wasn't my best fit, because I--of the way I talk. So I had to change my teaching style. I tried to be more--to go more slowly, and just one concept at a time, and then if I recognized that a student was really getting everything and was maybe gifted I would just encourage them, and say, "I want you to go take an upper division course at the other campus." But, it isn't--it wasn't about me. So there's so many faculty that are wonderful with our students who are a little underprepared, and I was always proud of that, and just thrilled that they could graduate--thrilled. It's just an entrée in another realm of life.

[01:09:13.24] SHANNON GREEN: So, after a number of years of teaching--at Doheny, it looks like--

[01:09:20.09] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Yes, I taught both campuses always. I mean--the Religious Studies department always did that. We all commuted--we taught both campuses. We didn't believe there should be a two-year faculty and a four-year faculty. And that was set before me by the two I already mentioned to you.

[01:09:35.06] SHANNON GREEN: How does the invitation to leadership--Provincial Superior--emerge?

[01:09:42.09] SISTER MARY MCKAY: I was just doing my thing--I was teaching. I can't recall. I think by that time I was also heading up the Graduate program--MA program. And I was in the pool of people who got enough nominations and--actually I was on the Council before that, so I did enter it--I was on the Council in the years that [Sister] Maureen O'Connor was the Provincial. And--but that was--it's a different kind of a commitment, and it was always a Thursday, Friday and occasionally a Saturday once a month, so I scheduled all my classes around it, because it was predictable when we would meet. So I had some experience, and I had watched those--the full time leadership team, and been exposed to it. Okay. And then when I myself was in the final pool of names, I--it's hard for me to recapture--even my friends tell me I wasn't paying much attention to it. I think I didn't really think it was going to happen. I was just sort of going along. And I taught--the day they called me to say they'd like me to serve as the Provincial, I had taught a morning class at Doheny--a graduate class. I came back--I was living at this campus--and [Sister]

Carol Brong was on that selection committee, and she said, "Well, Mary, they sent me to ask you as you'd serve as the Provincial." I was like, "Seriously?" And she remembers that I cried a little bit, and then I was done with that and I said, "Okay, what comes next?" [smiles]. So, I don't remember that actual--what actually happened there. I know I taught that morning. I don't think I--I don't live in the future very much. It is a characteristic of mine. People who worry about the future, I try to just go, "Oh, forget about it." So I wasn't--I was surprised, but then I said, "Okay, fine--I guess that's next." Yeah. Now, here's the part--it's my comment on what I said to you earlier. During the years I served in the novitiate, and the years right after, I used to say to people if they'd ask, "What's your favorite ministry?"--I used to always say, "the novitiate." It was so great. And that stopped after I became Provincial, because I kept saying, "I was made for this." I just loved it--I loved it. I loved relating to the Sisters. I loved--it was a bigger world than the novitiate. So, you had the same kind of personal connections that we have in Formation Ministry, but it's a much bigger world.

[01:12:30.10] SHANNON GREEN: How would you describe--

[01:12:30.25] SISTER MARY MCKAY: I also didn't know I had administrative skills. I didn't know that, but I did. It never bothered me. And people to this day, they say, "You know, you're the only person I ever met who said she loved being the Provincial." But it suited--and we had a wonderful group of six. There were three of us who were full-time and three councilors. I love all those people. We worked well together. We faced into some troubles together--all of that, just all part of it. And I liked being really engaged with the congregation. I think I felt, "Now I'm really a member--I'm really so engaged with the congregation--"

[01:13:18.09] SHANNON GREEN: --the larger congregation--

[01:13:19.26] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Yeah. And the whole province, not this little group that I lived with or related to. I liked how big the world was.

[01:13:29.01] SHANNON GREEN: So how would you describe what your role--what it means--meant then--to be Provincial, and then if there's some aspect of that, that you really excelled at or felt really drawn to, or--?

[01:13:42.05] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Well, I had a theory about leadership before I became a leader. And it--I wrote my masters thesis in Spirituality on the spirituality of leadership. I have no idea why--I hadn't been the leader of anything except a little pack of seven and eight year olds. [laughs]. But it seemed like a great idea. And entering into that was--what I remember, because they had a style at Duquesne University--it had to be very reflective, so they are very long. So you do some theoretical bit, and then a long reflection. The two things that stuck with me is, you have to figure out what the people need. It's not about you--there's no indigenous leader who's just going to be perfect at everything. What do the people need? And the second thing was about courage. Now, I don't remember having had any occasion in my life when I really needed courage, but somehow that was a something in that spirituality that I thought was important in 1976 or whenever. So when I was being interviewed for leadership--because they still do that method, and you might know that method here--through a discernment that is conducted by a committee that's been elected. Okay. I said that thing about you have to listen to people first--what do they need, and what do they want. And of course, that's the methodology also of Liberation Theology. What do the people need? What do they know, what do they not know, what do they need? So I tried to do that in any way that I could--it's not always immediately available to the Provincial. But someone in province leaders is much closer to the Sisters than the position I have now. We're not close to the Sisters. So, it is much easier to hear the voice of the Sisters, and to go to meetings and

cluster and clusters and all that stuff. And we had gotten on email by then. [laughs]. So one way to hear the voice of the Sisters is they feel free to email you. So, I would get messages from whoever, and we went to different regional meetings or area meetings, whatever we could. I thought it was important for me to hear what was happening. And then--what did you--you just asked what? What was my strongest--what did I bring--?

[01:16:17.04] SHANNON GREEN: Yeah, or--what really drew you in, in terms of your own style then? How would you name that?

[01:16:25.22] SISTER MARY MCKAY: I think my style is that I think about things. I like to get the information and then think about it. So, I think I brought that to the leadership. And we did a lot of shared thinking in the threesome with Sisters Pat [??] and Mary [??], and then when the whole council would meet. Who has a different perspective on it? Or if I--can I say my whole thing first, and after you've listened then comment or ask questions or probe it, because I don't know if it--does it hold? So I like that kind of thinking--I like group thinking. The other thing that has been reflected to me a number of times is that--and I think it is part of my leadership--is that sometimes I can get the synthesis idea. It is part of the way I think. So after a whole big long conversation I can say, "I think there've been two ideas that are just being repeated here--they just keep floating across the conversation. It might be this and this." And frequently people have said to me, "You got that." So I think what I bring to a group leadership is that I can hear the crossover, or how one idea could feed another, or how these three things could be collected if we gave them a single title they actually are first cousins to each other and they could go together. So, I do bring that to conversations. The other thing I think I brought to province leadership that I think that was appreciated is--tell the truth. Just say it, if that's either what's happening, or what I'm thinking, say it--don't cover it up.

[01:18:22.06] SHANNON GREEN: I was going to ask if you had kind of a lesson of leadership that, given your experience now, that you would reflect back for say, a Mount Saint Mary's University student. That sounds like a good one.

[01:18:33.00] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Yeah. It's just--and that takes courage--sometimes, not always. Frequently it's appreciated, but sometimes if you say, "This conversation is now gone off the rails, and I'm not going to participate in it any more, because you're just going to get more and more angry, and this is going to end up nowhere"--now that would be the kind of a thing that I could say. And I might say it to a young woman who's considering that she's going to get a certain kind of job, or wants to be the leader of the group. You have to know yourself well enough to say the truth. And lots of times I'd be positive and I'd help build what's happening, and sometimes it's going to be, "This has to stop", or "Do you really hear what I think? I'm not so sure you really want to hear it, but if you really want to hear it I'll tell you." And sometimes they say, "No, I don't want to hear it." And that's okay, because that's the truth. I think I would say that to someone who's aiming at a certain kind of a job. You'd better know yourself first. If you're going to be a lawyer, you'd better know yourself first. You can't represent anyone else unless you know when you're pretending, when you're BS-ing--but you can cut that one out of the film. [laughs].

[01:19:51.25] SHANNON GREEN: So now that you're congregational leadership and have been in that role a couple of years now--

[01:19:59.06] SISTER MARY MCKAY: --four years--

[01:19:59.19] SHANNON GREEN: --four years. From that perspective, how do you think--you said you don't live in the future--but do you--how do you feel about the future of the charism, the

future of the mission, of whether it's at the provincial, congregational, federation level--where do you see this all going? And how do you feel about it?

[01:20:19.25] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Well, the charism belongs to the Church. It doesn't belong to Sisters of St. Joseph. And the charism is immediately rooted in the Gospel--comes right out of the Gospel. We didn't make up oneness with all, reality. So it has a future. I don't know if this congregation has a historical future, because of the reality of our demographics. We might, and we might be much smaller than we are today, because we do have a really wonderful cohort of Sisters who are under sixty-five. And I believe that they will endure, and that the future Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet are going to be a much smaller and probably mission-minded community. And the reason I say "more mission-minded" is that it is my sincere hope that many of us in my generation can simplify so that they don't have to tend to buildings and projects and finances in the way that we do today. So if we can help to free them up, then this congregation will also continue, with vitality, in those women who are wonderful, and they're all younger than I am. [smiles]. So I believe the charism is already continuing--it's already imbued in many people's lives, and that's going to continue. This particular organized group who love the charism and live the mission--I don't know how long our historical future will be. I think there's a spiritual future in terms of legacy--I don't know about the historical future. I'm okay with that, as long as we can do it with wisdom and grace.

[01:22:33.20] SHANNON GREEN: I always ask, what's been the greatest joy of religious life for you?

[01:22:37.27] SISTER MARY MCKAY: I think probably the companionship of others who are--I've just known so many great people, and I realize that it's because I'm in this great community. Now, they aren't all members of this congregation. But I wouldn't have even met those great people if I hadn't been in this community. Yeah. Great people. And great examples for me. I owe a lot of who I am today to other people, because I imitated them--and probably always unconsciously. But I see certain patterns that didn't come from my family. And I've had two communities in my life--my family and the Sisters of St. Joseph. So, I don't have to go too far to find out where that came from.

[01:23:29.20] SHANNON GREEN: Is there anything that you reflected upon to prepare for today that you want to share that I haven't asked you about?

[01:23:37.06] SISTER MARY MCKAY: You didn't ask me that very intriguing question about, is there another Sister's story, and she doesn't have her voice and you could tell it. And it's [Sister] Maria Angela Mesa [aka Mary Mesa, (1944-2008)], who in her very last ministry was at the Mount at Doheny. But I went to high school with her. She was always a great person, just like always. And besides she had a brother who later became a priest, but I had a huge crush on him, so it was good to be her friend, because then I could go with Manuel. [laughs]. She was a wonderful person. During her upbringing she went by "Mary", and then in religion she took the Latina form of "Maria Angela", which was her full name. But her latter years, when she was working with farm workers in Central California in Delano, and then her brother worked there with her too also--Manuel--he became an oblate priest. So many people admired her, so many people were inspired by her. And then when her health began to decline, and she went to Doheny, so many students loved her. She just always had this fiery spirit--just--she was wonderful as a seventeen year old and wonderful as a full grown Sister. And her tragic early death I think was just--made a big impact on our community. Yeah. So I came ready to say, "You can't forget Maria Angela."

[01:25:08.17] SHANNON GREEN: Thank you.

[01:25:10.02] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Yeah. And she had the craziest funeral, because it's when we

were renovating the big chapel, and it was all down and everything was a big mess, and we had the funeral in the classroom. [Puts hands over face.] And all these people came squashing in--all these wonderful people from our Doheny campus, and a couple of her former students, and we're all smashed--all my former high school friends are there--and we're all smashed in this room. And we think, "Maria Angela, who of all people"--you know, we could have filled the chapel, and we're squashed in the classroom having her funeral. [laughs]. Somehow it worked.

[01:25:42.22] SHANNON GREEN: She's not forgotten.

[01:25:44.01] SISTER MARY MCKAY: No, she's not forgotten. What a great person. Great family.

[01:25:47.26] SHANNON GREEN: She had great hair too.

[01:25:50.24] SISTER MARY MCKAY: She had great hair. [all laugh]. Her mom and dad were fabulous--all the children were fabulous. Yeah.

[01:25:59.21] [Director's comments].

[01:26:12.23] KELBY THWAITS: --could you tell us a little bit about your experience as a thespian on the big stage--the productions that you were in?

[01:26:29.04] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Oh, the high school thing. That's high school stuff--that's not for real. No you could--it was really my experience--I mean, it was fun. We were singing and prancing around. I think I was in "The King and I" or something like that. Yeah, Alemany always did a production every year--big--what's his name--Mr. King or Dr. King--he was the music teacher. And but then in the community, it was Sister Rita Francis [aka Margaret Mary Grace Fraser (1920-2011)]--I'm trying to think of her last name--she was in various high schools in her history, and she was used to big productions, so she got all the young Sisters and we did these things at St. Mary's Academy for two or three years in a row. Big musicals--just the same thing we had done in high school.

[01:27:18.13] SHANNON GREEN: How fun.

[01:27:20.18] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Yeah. I was a flapper in something.

[01:27:22.01] SHANNON GREEN: You have a performance side of you?

[01:27:25.02] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Yeah. Yes, all teachers have to have that. Yeah, you would have it, I bet. You have to have a certain "stage presence", especially if you are going to teach elementary school. Yeah. You have to just--a little bit of "show-off-iness"--and then you're done and you can go sit in the chapel afterwards, and you go, "Wow! I was a complete idiot-head today! But that's okay." [all laugh].

[01:27:51.29] SHANNON GREEN: Was there anything that you brought in particular that--

[01:27:56.22] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Well, my friend was yelling at me that I had too many pictures, so I took half of them out last night.

[01:28:01.14] [Director's comments].

[01:28:07.26] SISTER MARY MCKAY: [1] Well then I was going to show you my profession cross.

Has any Sister brought hers in yet? This is what we wore with the habit--

[01:28:14.24] SHANNON GREEN: No. I don't think I--

[01:28:16.04] SISTER MARY MCKAY: --this is the Sisters of St. Joseph profession cross. I still keep it in my bedroom. You will see Sisters with that on if they are still in the habit--but there's like three in the whole province. I wanted to show you my progression here, so that's how I ended up having the right pictures. [Begins describing photographs.] Okay. Wait, they were in order and now they're not. [2] High school graduation--ratted hair. Yeah. But that doesn't really matter that much. I was only seventeen, so who cares. [3] My girlfriends from high school graduation. One is deceased, can you believe. And all the others--we still get together occasionally. I just saw them for lunch. Now wait, here are my habit pictures. [4] Here's one of the ones where I was laughing. [5] My name was Sister Carol Richard and I--this is my brother's two little kids--years ago, on a Visiting Day. I would say that was in my parents' home. Probably the first home visit. My mother was horrified. "Do you have to wear that costume the whole time you're here?" [all laugh]. "No, I'm allowed to take it off." And they had a pool in the back yard. I spent the whole rest of the time in a bathing suit. [laughs]. "I'm allowed to take it off." Okay. [6] Here's me in the modified habit. Those glasses are back in style.

[01:29:40.01] SHANNON GREEN: They are. Did you wear the blue?

[01:29:42.10] SISTER MARY MCKAY: That would have probably been a black dress, because when we changed, we had to use our habits first. So we all made skirts and jackets or skirts out of the habit. So, I would say that looks like a habit dress. to me. Had to use those up first before you went to colors. There she is with her lovely flat hair. [7] And this is my final vow group, and we're all modified. See that change there? You would know--

[01:30:08.09] SHANNON GREEN: Oh, yes. I've seen this picture before, because there's Kieren [Sister Kieren Vaughan].

[01:30:12.18] SISTER MARY MCKAY: No, that's actually her sister Judy [Sister Judith Marie Vaughan '68].

[01:30:14.26] SHANNON GREEN: Oh that's Judy? Oh!

[01:30:15.15] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Judy Vaughan, yeah. I don't think it--there's me [points to 1st on left, back row]. And this--

[01:30:20.11] SHANNON GREEN: There you are. Who is this?

[01:30:20.24] SISTER MARY MCKAY: That is Noreen Cannon, who left some years later.

[01:30:24.10] SHANNON GREEN: I just had dinner with Noreen.

[01:30:26.11] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Noreen Cannon Au, Mary [Tuwilkie??]

[01:30:29.17] SHANNON GREEN: Yes, they're friends. I just saw her.

[01:30:32.01] SISTER MARY MCKAY: You'd know Maureen [Petrony??].

[01:30:32.25] SHANNON GREEN: Yes.

[01:30:34.13] SISTER MARY MCKAY: I think Mary Mesa [Sister Maria Angela Mesa]. Maria Angela. Yeah.

[01:30:39.18] SHANNON GREEN: I love that picture of her and [Sister] Mary Williams.

[01:30:41.28] SISTER MARY MCKAY: But see, because of our age, I think, we all went quickly into different dress. No young people stayed in the habit, but just a few older Sisters did. So they--we all made final vows together. [8] And then, this is a novitiate picture. You have to pick out which one is me, because we were all pretty much the same age. [laughs].

[01:31:04.24] SHANNON GREEN: Is that you on the end?

[01:31:07.13] SISTER MARY MCKAY: I have poofy hair. [points to 2nd to last on right]. There I am, with the white blouse and tan skirt.

[01:31:13.18] SHANNON GREEN: That's great.

[01:31:15.16] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Yeah, at the end is Kris Robertson. Kris--do you know Kris yet? She ministers her quite a bit--I think she helps with the senior Sisters. She was first grade teacher for years and years. [9] Okay, so Notre Dame. This is what I have to prove to people that I really have a degree. They say, "You know you can rent those outfits." [all laugh].

[01:31:38.12] SHANNON GREEN: Who would go to that trouble?

[01:31:41.12] SISTER MARY MCKAY: My brother who just died last year, he called it my "Donald Duck" picture. And I never knew until he said it, that that cap is the Donald Duck cap.

[01:31:50.06] SHANNON GREEN: Oh, that's right.

[01:31:51.11] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Donald Duck wore this cap with the little gold tassel on it. Yes, my brother said it immediately--"Oh!" he said, "You went to Donald Duck school!" Okay. Now I was--oh, [10] all of the living Provincials, when [Sister] Barbara Stowasser was the Provincial. So you know Barb Stowasser.

[01:32:07.07] SHANNON GREEN: Yes, I do.

[01:32:08.19] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Okay. [front row L-R] Sister Mary Brigid [Fitzpatrick '47] is still alive; Grace Ann [Sister Grace Ann Loperena (1926-2017)] is deceased. You know all these people probably. [back row L-R] Joyce Gaspardo [Sister Joyce Marie Gaspardo]; [Sister Mary McKay??]; Kathleen Mary [Sister Kathleen Mary McCarthy]; Catherine Marie [Sister Catherine Marie Kreta '61]; Maureen O'Connor [Sister Maureen O'Connor '63]; [Sister Barbara Stowasser]. And somehow someone realized we were at an event--you can tell it's an event--we all have jackets on. They said, "Oh! Grab all the living Provincials before they all die!" So that's a--here I was hoping you were going to ask me some question--but let me say about my worldview and serving as Provincial. Did I say "really big world"? I did say it.

[01:32:38.20] SHANNON GREEN: You did. [unintelligible]

[01:32:40.02] SISTER MARY MCKAY: I got to go to both Peru and Japan in those years. [11] And this is our Peruvian Formation house at the time. Maria [Rubino??] was the Formation Director, and I

traveled with [Sister] Sandra [??] and [Sister] Kay Ryan, wherever she is--I'm upside down here-- Kay and Sandra. Kay is in leadership in Albany [New York], Sandra in St. Louis [Missouri], and I was LA, and they wanted us all to know and understand Peru and the Peruvian mission. [12] And then I went to Japan. And that was when they requested to join the LA Province, so I had to go visit them, and interview each Sister individually and ask her if this was her free decision.

[01:33:22.19] SHANNON GREEN: Barbara Mary [Sister Barbara Mary Sanborn] was still there.

[01:33:23.28] SISTER MARY MCKAY: Yes, Barbara Mary was still there. And Teresa Cavalli [Sister Teresa Cavalli]--she had had breast cancer so her hair had just grown back. She was on the general leadership at that time. Yeah. And she was the delegate to Japan. Yeah. So, the thing I was going to say there--but I didn't get the right question--was the beauty of having the ministry enlarge my world. Remember I said the world got much bigger? And when I went to both Peru and Japan--both times when I came home I said, "I never felt like a stranger. I never felt like a foreigner." And I think it was because I was with our Sisters. So, going all around Peru, traveling hither and thither, and just never felt like an outsider. Yeah wasn't--that's a wonderful, wonderful experience. Okay, I'm done.

[01:34:12.17] [Director's comments].

[01:34:42.05] End of interview.

Interview Index

Interview Date: 02/28/2018

Interviewee: Sister Mary McKay

Interviewer: Shannon Green, Director, CSJ Institute, Mount Saint Mary's University; Sean Gary; Kelby Thwaits, Instructor, Film and Television, Mount Saint Mary's University; Mary Trunk, Instructor, Film and Television, Mount Saint Mary's University.

Location: Carondelet Center, Los Angeles, California.

Transcription Date: 03/20/2018

Transcribed By: Nancy Steinmann

[00:00:00.00] [Director's comments]

[00:05:18.01] Date, location participants.

[00:05:38.14] Full name and age: Sister Mary Jane McKay, age 72.

[00:05:53.26] Early life and family. Born Detroit, Michigan. Two older brothers, three younger sisters. Growing up in Phoenix, Arizona and Los Angeles, California. Attending St Catherine's Catholic School, Reseda, California starting in 6th grade. Attending [Bishop] Alemany High School.

[00:08:11.06] Parents work. Mother homemaker, degree in Archaeology. Father in film industry (American International Films, Disney Studios). Influence of film industry on family.

[00:11:20.27] Early religious life.

[00:11:59.24] Early vocation. Meeting the CSJs at St. Catherine's School. Influence of art in Catholicism. Sister Constance Fitzgerald. Vocations from Bishop Alemany High School.

[00:14:36.25] Influential CSJs. Sister Rose Agnes [Haskins], 7th grade teacher. Working in Principal's office.

[00:16:38.12] Family reaction to vocation. Deciding to attend Mount St. Mary's College.

[00:19:19.26] Attraction to CSJs. Teaching vocation. Wanting to "learn to be prayerful".

[00:20:32.29] [Director's comments].

[00:21:29.15] Postulant and novitiate life. Dormitory life. Changing the habit.

[00:23:12.08] Receiving the habit. Wearing wedding gowns. Reception ceremony. Religious name: Sister Carol Richard (after mother and father).

[00:26:02.26] First Profession Day. Individually stating vows. Old form vs. renewal form of vows. "The Protestations".

[00:27:44.27] Attending Mount St. Mary's College. Speaking "illicitly" to high school friends. Paula [?]. Sister Veronica Maloney (1920–2016), Postulant Directress. Sisters vs. lay students in classes. Sister Miriam Therese Larkin [(1930–2010)], Philosophy faculty. Major in English Literature, Minor in Art. Studying ceramics, weaving, painting.

[00:30:48.15] Sister faculty at MSMC. Sister Jeanette [Munick, aka Sister John Margaret Munick], Sociology faculty. Sister Alice [?], History faculty. Sister Cecilia Louise [Moore (1928–2004)]. Sister [Mary] Laurentia Digges [(1910–1991)], English Literature faculty. Book by Sister Laurentia Digges: "Adam's Haunted Sons" (1966).

[00:32:23.16] Early missions. First mission teaching 2nd grade (8–9 years); one year in 1st grade in Oxnard, California. Teaching 3rd grade through 5th grade.

[00:33:50.25] Vatican II [Second Vatican Council (1962–1965)]. Changing habit during formation. Theology courses at MSMC being taught by priests. Reading Vatican II documents: "People of God" as image of Church; pilgrimage; ecumenism and interfaith dialogue.

[00:36:37.26] Charism, mission and identity of CSJs during Vatican II era. "The Protestations". Humility and possible beatification of Mother St. John Fontbonne [Jeanne Fontbonne (1759–1843), second foundress of CSJs]. How to be a CSJ. Trek of the Seven Sisters (1870). Relationship of Sisters with students. Sister Jean Anne [?].

[00:40:53.08] Receiving MA in Formative Spirituality. Teaching 3rd grade in Kennewick, Washington. Sister Mary Brigid Fitzpatrick '47, Provincial. Sister Grace Ann [Loperena (1926–2017)], Assistant Provincial. Attending Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Father Adrian van Kaam, C.S.Sp. [(1920–2007), Dutch Catholic priest and educator].

[00:43:17.02] Personal spirituality. Summer MA program in Theology. MA program at Duquesne. Learning Psychology.

[00:46:35.25] Entering Formation Ministry. Sister Grace Ann Loperena, Provincial. Sister Joyce Marie Gaspardo. Sister Marilyn Binder '65. Sister Sara Michael King.

[00:48:47.04] Working in ministry for novices in 1977. Community changes. Decline in vocations. Moving novitiate out of Carondelet Center to convent at Assumption Parish in Pasadena, California.

[00:52:22.26] Teaching Religious Studies at Mount St. Mary's College. Sister Magdalen Coughlin [(1930–1994)], MSMC President. Sister Alexis Navarro, IHM. Attending Notre Dame University, Indiana for Doctorate in Theology (1986–1992). Dissertation on "Grace". Returning to teach at MSMC.

[00:54:23.29] Women in Theology education. Sister Alexis Navarro, IHM. Sister Marie Egan, IHM. Joining Woman's Caucus of Catholic Theological Society of America. Feminist theology.

[00:56:53.27] Influential theologians. Sister Elizabeth A. Johnson (1941–). Catherine Mowry LaCugna (1952–1997). Karl Rahner, SJ (1904–1984). Feminist and liberation theology.

[00:59:31.17] CSJ charism in ministry. Consensus Statement. "Without distinction".

[01:01:28.04] Teaching at MSMC after doctorate. Teaching undergraduates. Graduation. Story about meeting alumni "Sarah" in airport.

[01:07:05.18] Mission of the Mount. Teaching at Doheny campus. Differences between campuses.

[01:09:37.08] Working in leadership as Provincial Superior. Sister Carol Brong. Role of Provincial. Thesis on spirituality in leadership. Discerning needs of people.

[01:16:18.12] Style of leadership. Sisters Pat [??] and Mary [?]. Group thinking. Synthesis of ideas. Speaking the truth. Leadership advice for students. Knowing oneself.

[01:19:52.09] Future of charism and CSJ mission.

[01:22:32.20] Greatest joy of religious life.

[01:23:30.19] Other reflections. Sister Maria Angela Mesa [aka Mary Mesa, (1944–2008)], Doheny Campus Ministry, fellow high school student.]

[01:25:58.29] [Director's comments].

[01:26:13.14] High school drama experience. Sister Rita Francis [aka Margaret Mary Grace Fraser (1920–2011)].

[01:27:51.01] Memorabilia and photographs. 1) Profession cross. 2) High school graduation. 3) Girl friends from high school graduation. 4) In habit, laughing. 5) In habit with nephews in parent's home. 6) In modified (black) habit. 7) Final vow group in modified habits: (not in order) Sister Judy Vaughan, Noreen Cannon, Sister Mary Angela Mesa. 8) In novitiate (Sister Mary McKay 2nd from right, far right Kris Robertson). 9) Graduation photo from Notre Dame. 10) Living provincials: (front row L–R) Sister Mary Brigid Fitzpatrick '47, Sister Grace Ann Loperena (1926–2017). (back row L–R) Sister Joyce Marie Gaspardo, Sister Mary McKay??, Sister Kathleen Mary McCarthy, Sister Catherine Marie Kreta '61, Sister Maureen O'Connor '63, Sister Barbara Stowasser (when Provincial). 11) Visit to Peru at Peruvian formation house: (not in order) Maria Rubino [??], Formation Director; Sandra [??] leadership St. Louis; Sister Kay Ryan, leadership in Albany. 12) Visit to Japan when requesting to join LA Province: (not in order) Sister Barbara Mary [Sanborn]; Sister [Teresa Cavalli??].

[01:34:11.13] [Director's comments].

[01:34:42.05] End of interview.